

Appln. No. 09/637,846

Amdt dated May 22, 2003

Reply to Office action of February 24, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assigning ownership of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus, the method including: identifying a target requested by a master; determining if data associated with the target is available; and assigning a first priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master based on availability of the data.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~[wherein]~~ further comprising assigning the master a MEDIUM priority level after the master requests a target[, ~~the master is assigned a MEDIUM priority~~].

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning a first priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master based on availability of the data comprises assigning a LOW priority level to the master if the data is not available[, ~~then the master is assigned a LOW priority~~].

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning a first priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master based on availability of the data comprises assigning a HIGH priority level to the master if the data is available[, ~~then the master is assigned a HIGH priority~~].

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the target uses delayed transactions to complete a read access.

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6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the target integrates a buffer management scheme.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the buffer management scheme includes an input/output cache.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein identifying a target includes sending a request signal from the master to an arbiter.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein assigning a priority includes sending a modified request signal to the arbiter.